



SOUTHEAST NEWS

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING—"... SO I SEND YOU" SOUTHERN INN, CHATTANOOGA, TN, JUNE 13-15, 1986

Our Purpose:

To grow in faith and community.

To interpret our mission through faith.

To discover how God calls us and challenges us to act in the Southeast Conference.

To claim our responsibility for the world's people and its resources by faith through action.

John 20:21b

"As the Father has sent me, even so send I you."

KEYNOTE MESSAGE:

The Rev. Reuben Sheares, Executive Director of the UCC Office for Church Life and Leadership

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY:

3:00 PM, Friday, June 13, 1986

Information on what it means to be a delegate to the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting.

Overview of Associations and Conference.

Review resolutions and agenda.

PUBLICATION FOR ARTICLE BY BEEBE SET

Dr. David Beebe, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Chattanooga, is one of three theologians whose articles on baptism will be published this spring in the first regular issue of "Prism," a theological forum for the UCC. His article is titled "Baptism in the Congregational Christian Churches."

NEWS AND NOTES

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Pleasant Grove Congregational Christian Church in LaFayette, Alabama, celebrated its 100th birthday on May 4, 1986. Our congratulations to Pleasant Grove Church, to Rev. Claude Shumate, the pastor, and to the members!

(Note: If any church has any *Modern Hymn* song books which are not needed, Pleasant Grove Church would like to buy them. Write to them at Rt. 1, Box 178, LaFayette, AL 36862.)

LIBERTY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PLANNING "ANNUAL HOMECOMING"

All former ministers and/or ministers who went out from Liberty Congregational Church, UCC, are invited to attend the Annual Homecoming on June 1, 1986.

Special services planned for Church School Hour; all visiting ministers are asked to participate in the Worship Experience; "Dinner on the Grounds!"; and an afternoon of singing led by "The Sounds of Liberty" beginning at 2:00 p.m.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BELVIDERE, TENNESSEE—

TOPS OGHS \$5,000 GOAL!

Congratulations to First UCC in Belvidere for going over their OGHS goal. Their total for the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering totaled \$5,006.05.

UPDATE ON THE CACKO FAMILY

From the Church of the Good Shepherd in Crossville, TN, comes word of the progress of the Cacko family whose brief story was printed in the February issue of *Southeast News*. Zbyszeck has his driver's license and they have bought a car! Izabella will receive her passport in Poland by May 5, and hopes to arrive here in June or July. Theresa has a part-time job, and little Lukash attends nursery school. Zbyszeck has a temporary job, and hopes to find a permanent job soon. And to think they have only been in the U.S. for 4 1/2 months!

THE REV. DR. CARL MARBURY was officially installed as pastor of First Congregational UCC of Montgomery, AL., on Sunday, May 4th. The Conference Minister preached the installation sermon. An impressive group of lay leaders took part in this special service on behalf of the congregation. Congratulations to both pastor and people, and our prayerful best wishes for a long and fruitful ministry together.

CIRCULAR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in Charleston will host a "Bon Voyage" party for pastor Bert Keller and his family on June 8th. The Kellers will be on sabbatical for a year in England while he studies and lectures at Oxford University (Green College). The church will be served by an interim during the year.

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT BROCHURE

The brochure and other information on the Southeast Conference UCC Women's Fall Retreat will be out soon. Theme is "Jesus According to a Woman" ... Dates are October 10-12, 1986. Camp Calvin, Hampton, GA. Child care will be provided for children 8 yrs. or younger. All details will be in your hands soon! Save the dates!

Spiritual Renewal

Spiritual Renewal, a priority of the United Church of Christ voted by the 15th General Synod, is being accepted and implemented by churches, conferences, and other church groups throughout the denomination.

Dr. Reuben Sheares, II. says "While interpretations of Spiritual Renewal differ, we all affirm that Spiritual Renewal is about the life of the Spirit in the lives of individuals and in the life of the church. Relying on the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, you are encouraged to continue to implement the priority as God gives you light."

CONFERENCE CORNER

One of the most significant groups at work in our Conference right now is shackled by the awkward name of "Area Wide Mission Strategy Task Force." The name may be awkward, but its work is full of grace. This dedicated group is doing some hard planning and futuring for the sake of our life as a Conference.

But this Task Force needs help from every one of our churches and members. If they are to point the way for our future faithfulness, they need input from all of us.

Please take the survey questionnaire seriously and answer it conscientiously. Your responses will be tallied, taken seriously and integrated into the final report and recommendations which will be shared in the future.

This part of God's church which we call a Conference of the United Church of Christ needs to be understanding of its mission under God, be intentional in its dedication to the mission, and be organized in the best possible way to accomplish that mission. Your ideas would not just be nice—they are absolutely necessary to enable the Task Force to function as it should.

So, please back up these fine people who have accepted responsibility for this difficult and challenging task. The Southeast Conference needs our best thought, our prayerful interest, and our personal commitment if we are to be what God in Christ calls us to be. Thank you for your participation.

--Emmett O. Floyd

YOUR OGHS DOLLARS AT WORK

In the face of new disasters elsewhere, Hurricane Elena which struck Mississippi last year was soon forgotten by the media. Fortunately, the church and YOU did not forget. THANK YOU.

By the end of 1985, \$29,482 had poured into the special fund at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Miss., to bring relief to the community and to help Back Bay Mission recover ...

EXCERPTS FROM THE REV. JAMES L. MYERS' ARTICLE ON REV. BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.

"In response to the plea from besieged residents of the Alabama Black Belt, the Commission for Racial Justice, of the UCC, sponsored a busload of Freedom Riders from New York City to Alabama on Friday, Feb. 28, 1986, as part of the 'Freedom Riders 1986' Campaign. Stops to pick up Freedom Riders were made in Washington, D.C., Richmond, VA, Raleigh, NC, and Atlanta, GA.

"According to the Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Executive Director of the UCC Commission for Racial Justice, 'The Freedom Riders 1986' Campaign was launched to lift the veil of fear and intimidation now being imposed on the Western Alabama Black Belt. In 1984 and 1985, hundreds of Black residents were interrogated who had voted absentee ballots, in an attempt to prove alleged voter fraud. Many of those questioned were elderly, and only Black absentee ballots were investigated.

"On their return trip to New York, the Rev. Chavis and the Freedom Riders stopped in Birmingham, AL, on Sunday morning, March 2, 1986, and worshipped at First Congregational Church, at which the Rev. James L. Myers is pastor.

"We wish for Rev. Chavis God's continual blessings and a successful career in this most important office, Executive Director of the Commission for Racial Justice, United Church of Christ."

--The Rev. James L. Myers

JUST PEACE OFFERING, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The 15th General Synod of the United Church of Christ not only went on record declaring the UCC a Just Peace church, but established the all-church Just Peace Offering for 1986 and 1987. Most congregations will gather the Just Peace Offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 18.

In order to dramatize the point that peacemaking is everyone's possibility, the General Synod provided a unique formula for sharing the proceeds from this offering. One fourth of the gifts to the all-church Just Peace Offering may be retained by the congregations. Another one-fourth may be used by the conferences in their peace-making ministries. National agencies of the UCC share the other one-half of the offering.

Cost of promotional materials is deducted, and the remaining resources support the Peace Advocacy Network, peace advocacy in the Congress of the U.S., the development of new resources for peace education in our churches.

The United Church of Christ needs your contribution to strengthen the justice and peace priority and to make it more effective. Please give as generously as you are able.

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This transcription was recorded on July 22, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

